



Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 12, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: All United States Attorneys

FROM: Larry D. Thompson  
Deputy Attorney General 

SUBJECT: Disclosures of Information in Terrorism Investigation

There have been an increasing number of news articles in recent days regarding the terrorism investigation into the events of September 11. Some of those stories have discussed possible charges against individuals. Such disclosures, if they are coming from government sources, are obviously unacceptable and could be considered a violation of Fed. R. Crim. P. 6(e). Moreover, they could have serious negative adverse consequences for the investigation. Accordingly, please immediately and emphatically remind all prosecutors and law enforcement agents working on this investigation that they are not authorized to disclose any information regarding the investigation to the news media. If a prosecutor or law enforcement agent is contacted by the media, he or she should simply refuse to comment and immediately notify you of the call.

Any statements to the media concerning this investigation should only be made with the approval of the Office of Public Affairs in Washington. Please notify them before authorizing any such disclosure.

cc: The Honorable Robert Mueller  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigations

Michael Chertoff  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division